

REMARKS

The Abstract has been objected to for not including a description of a process. The Abstract has been amended accordingly. Support for the amendment may be found in the specification on page 5 in the second paragraph of the Summary of the Invention.

Claims 19, 21 and 26 have been rejected under 35 USC 112(2) as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Only claim 19 is addressed in the explanation, so Applicants must assume that claims 21 and 26 are included in the rejection only because of their dependency from claim 19. Four specific reasons for the rejection are given in the Office action (paraphrased below in parentheses), which are addressed individually as follows:

1) *Rewrite claim 19, lines 2-3 by adding the limitation of: providing an interposer having first and second surfaces.* Requiring an object to be provided in a method claim is poor claim practice, as it requires an infringer to physically provide something rather than have it provided to him. There is no requirement in the statutes, rules, MPEP, or case law that requires, or suggests the need for, a "providing" operation in a method claim. The meaning of lines 2-3 of claim 19 is clear and unambiguous as written. Whether the language used is awkward is not relevant, since the rules of claim drafting, as dictated both by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and by the courts, frequently require the use of grammatically awkward language.

2) *Delete lines 5-7 of claim 19.* Lines 5-7 have been deleted, while line 4 has been amended, to more clearly state the same subject matter.

3) *Change "a group" to "the group" to be in proper Markush format.* Contrary to the implication that this would remove a rejection, changing "a" to "the" in this case would create a rejection under 35 USC 112 for improper antecedent basis. As directed by the MPEP and the courts, the word "the" before a term in a claim always refers back to a previous instance of the term, while the word "a" before the term indicates this is the first instance of that term. In claim 19, the term "group" is not previously used, hence the phrase "a group" is the proper phrase to use.

4) *Both "microprocessor" and "microprocessor device" are used.* The claim has been amended to consistently use "microprocessor device". Support for this change may be found in the specification at page 9 line 18.

Claims 19, 21 and 26 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent no. 5,635,847 ("Seidel") in view of U.S. patent no. 5,483,421 ("Gedney"), U.S. patent no. 5,680,936 ("Beers"), U.S. patent no. 5,990,564 ("Degani"), and U.S. patent no. 5,689,091 ("Hamzehdoost"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections because the cited references do not disclose or suggest every element of any claim, as the following analysis shows.

Independent claim 19 recites, in addition to coupling solder balls to only some of the conductive pads, testing only a portion of those conductive pads that have solder balls attached. Support for this limitation may be found in the specification at page 9 lines 10-13. None of the cited references, either together or separately, disclose or suggest this limitation.

Claims 21 and 26 depend from claim 19 and therefore contain the same limitations not disclosed or suggested by the cited references.

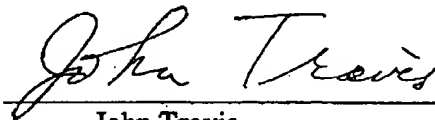
CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 19, 21 and 26 are now in condition for allowance, and indication of allowance by the Examiner is respectfully requested. Applicants further submit that claims 22, 24 and 25 should now be considered and found allowable in view of the allowance of claims 19, 21 and 26. If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, he or she is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number shown below as soon as possible. If any fee insufficiency or overpayment of found, please charge any insufficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY SOLOKOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 4-28-03



John Travis
Reg. No. 43,203

12400 Wilshire Blvd
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1026
(512) 330-0844